IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

October / November 2021

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My Days at the Irondale Elementary School (1948-1955) by Dorothy (Hancock) Reid

Students, grades one to eight, attended the one-room wooden structure. It was built in 1894 and painted white. Students entered via a small porch and then entered the cloakroom where they hung their outer clothing in cooler weather.

There was a wood stove in the centre of the classroom. The caretaker or sometimes students carried wood from the woodshed. The caretaker during those years was Mrs. Nora Graham. Water was carried in a bucket from a well on the school grounds. At one time students used a common dipper to get a drink from the bucket. Later on the school got a water urn and disposable paper Dixie cups which was a big improvement health-wise.

Continued page two

Back Row L to R: Tom Simmons, Sharon Smith, Donna Mintz, Dorothy Hancock, Helen Simmons, Mary Graham, June Graham, Fred Simmons, Paul Mintz.
Teacher: Josephine Kiley
Front Row L to R: Wilfred Hancock, Philip Mintz, Murray Simmons, Bobby Mintz, Ranold Wright, Merle Graham, Cecil Graham, Joe Hancock and Carol Mintz

Root Cellars

An question about root cellars crossed my email today.

It made me remember a time when my mother did preserves of all kinds - ketchup, chili sauce, pickles of all kinds, jams, beets, etc.

About this time of year when we started the pickles in big crocks, every day or so we gave them a stir or added another ingredient.

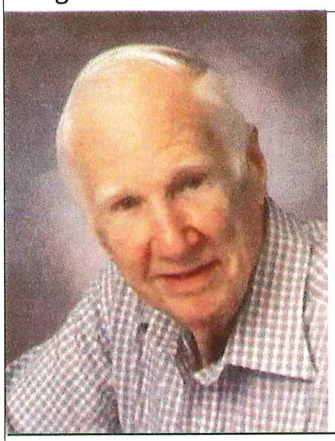
There was a special room in our basement - looked a lot like the photo on the far right.

I have come across what I believe to be outside root cellars, like the top picture. I'm not sure I would want to shovel the snow away so I could get another jar of beets or something.

I'd love to hear your Canning Season stories.

Don't be shy—drop a line or two to historical@IrondaleOntario.ca or call me 705-457-8438 and I'll take notes. Maybe you have a picture to share or a family recipe?

Whose birthday?
Check out pg 5 to see who.



Obituary

Denis Pantridge
husband of Helen Simmons
lived in Verdon, QC
August 14, 2021

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Condolences to family & friends.
Forever remembered,
forever missed

Obituary

Dora Godfrey
sister to Ranold Wright
lived in Orillia, ON
August 30, 2021

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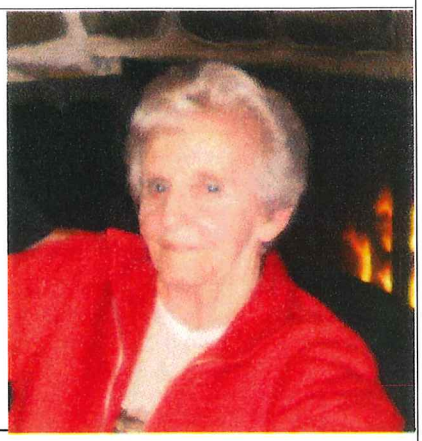
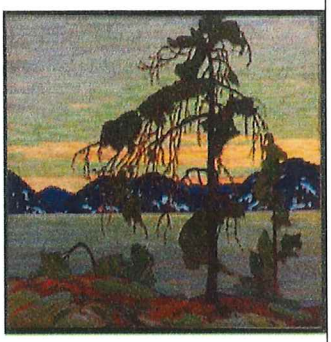
Condolences to family & friends.
Forever remembered,
forever missed



My Days ... continued from page one

There was a large wooden clock on the wall which was wound with a key. Hydro didn't come to Irondale until 1955. Light came in the large windows on two sides of the classroom. The front of the room had blackboards where the teacher would write lessons with chalk. Cleaning the brushes was sometimes a chore for either students or the caretaker.



At the front of the room there was a large print of "The Jack Pine "by Tom Thompson. One teacher told us about Canadian artists such as Tom Thompson and The Group of Seven.

Near the woodshed were the outdoor toilets which had a girls' and a boys' side. Each toilet had more than one hole in the seat. Privacy didn't seem to be an issue with whoever built them.

Most students walked to school, some quite a distance, while others rode their bikes. One student came in good weather and took correspondence lessons in the wintertime. Most students took their lunch to school and remained there all day. A few lived close enough to eat their lunch at home.

Teachers over these years were: Mrs. Agnes Agnew, Miss Elaine Clark, Mr. Grant Robertson, Miss Josephine Kylie and Miss Eleanor Owens. One teacher taught all subjects to all eight grades. Sometimes the older students helped by dictating spelling to the younger grades or pressing inked sheets on a hectograph pad to make seatwork for younger grades.

A music teacher would visit the school once a week to teach a music lesson. They would also prepare students for end-of-year music festivals held in Kinmount or Gooderham. Students from other schools would compete. Music teachers for those years were Miss Lillian McAdam (later known as Mrs. Bill Procter), Mr. Lessard, and Mr. Jan Martin.

Sometimes a church minister would come to do religious education. Canon Shepherd and Reverend Mason of the Anglican Church were two of them.

About 1953, a school nurse, Miss Minot, would come to the school to check on things and give health lessons.

When these visitors came, it was the only time the teacher got a break.

About the same time, the I.O.D.E. from Lindsay would send a suitcase of books each month. Students eagerly awaited the arrival of the latest book of the Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys or Anne of Green Gables series. My favourite was *Girl of the Limberlost*.

Games played at recess and noon hours were Red Light /Green Light, Anti-I-Over, Tag, Bull in the Ring, Free-the-Jail, Soccer and Baseball. Some years the primary grades were finished school at last recess and could play outdoors until the rest of the students were finished at 4:00 pm. When I was in Grade Two, we were told to stay away from the well as the top was not all the way on due to a job not finished. For some reason, someone decided to use the pump handle as Home-free for our tag game. The teacher spotted us running to the well to touch the pump handle. We were rounded up, taken inside where we were told to hold out our hands while we were hit with a leather strap.

There was a large school bell on top of the school that called students to class. Some teachers used a small hand bell to end recess and noon hour. This was probably when the older students disabled the rope for the big bell.

Attending a one-room school had both advantages and disadvantages and has provided lots of memories.

For the Sports Fans out there ...

1) Did the Argonauts or Stampeders win the 100th Grey Cup Game in 2012?
2) Who was the Raptors only No. 1 overall draft pick in franchise history?
3) What former Penquins' star is second after Wayne Gretzky for career points per game?
4) Where was super bowl LV played in February of 2021?
5) What Blue jays outfielder won a 2020 MLB Silver Slugger Award?
6) What Montreal goalie won his 300th game for the Canadiens in 2018?
7) What three CFL teams are community– owned?
8) What Jays player had 10 extra base hits in his first nine games in 2019?
9) What is the Maple Leafs all time franchise leader in goals and points?

Answers in Dec/Jan issue

I found this fascinating! I've come across these markings when following Fred through the bush.

From time to time, in the forest, we encounter standing dead trees with these chainsaw marks. People often ask, **"Why were these trees only partially cut?"**

The answer relates to a silvicultural practice from many years ago. Up to mid-1990s, foresters would occasionally "girdle" large, low-quality trees in order to provide better growing conditions for the surrounding small, high-quality trees. By cutting a few inches around the circumference of the tree with a chainsaw, the tree would quickly die, provide standing dead wood habitat, and eventually collapse into small pieces.

This practice is no longer used on a regular basis because it creates future hazards for logging operators (and it is also wasteful) but we felt it was worth sharing this throwback example of a girdled Yellow birch that we recently encountered near the Red Post.

This article is courtesy of Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve by way of Yours Outdoors Facebook post dated August 16, 2021

Lindsay Daily

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1946

Irondale Men Treed By Four Ferocious Wolves

Forced To Remain In Tree Until Logging Crew Discovers Their Plight.

Numerous stories relating to the unusual prevalence of wolves in the section lying immediately to the north of Lindsay have been heard in recent months — in most instances they were either shot or ambled off into the woods without molesting anybody. Such was not the case however, when Mr. George Simmons and his son J.G. Simmons were walking back to their home at Irondale from their camp at Bark Lake on Saturday afternoon.

As they made their way through the area they were attracted by what they believed was the howling of dogs running a deer and stopped to see if it emerged anywhere near them. Imagine their surprise when from out of the bush dashed four of the largest wolves that the men had ever seen. Even then, though unarmed, the two men were not unduly alarmed and figured that they would make off on seeing them — but not these wolves. They began circling them and edging in just a little closer all the time until the two men, by now getting uneasy, made for the nearest tree and climbed it — just in time. Hot on their heels were the four wolves.

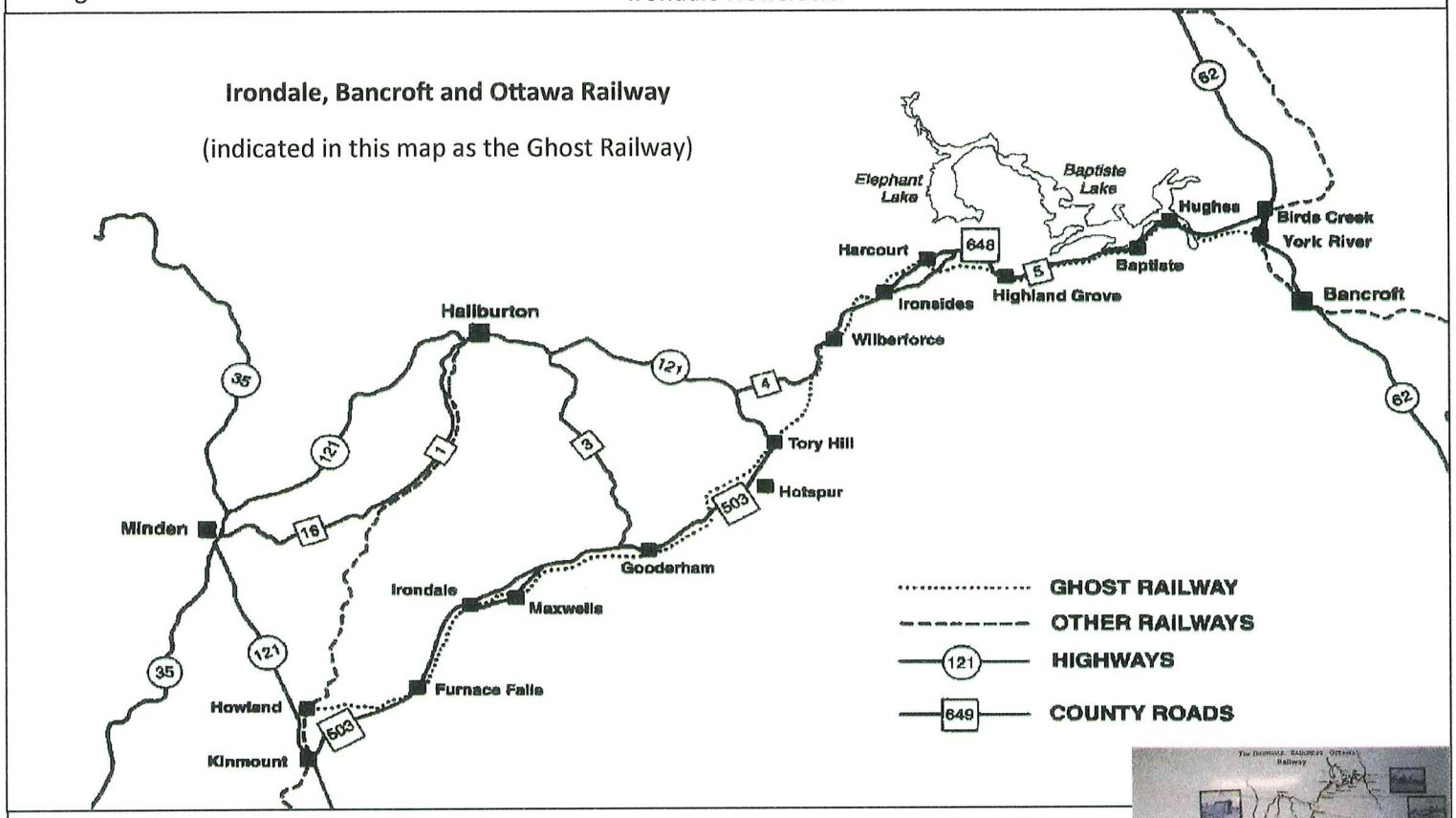
Father and son were forced to keep their places in the tree until a truck which was engaged hauling logs from the camp made its last trip in and discovered their plight.

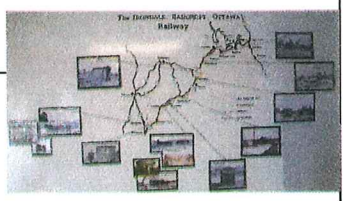
Besides being very cold, the two men felt more comfortable when they had put a safe distance between them and their attackers.

The younger man had just returned from overseas a short time ago and said this was one type of thrill he didn't get over there.

Editors note: George Simmons (1875-1955) and son James George Simmons (1912-1993)

PLAY CANOE 100.9 FM RADIO BINGO Tuesday nights 6pm





When you get the chance - visit the Irondale Church property when it is open .... and see this map hanging on the wall. This map above was reproduced to fit a 4' x 8' sheet and features pictures of the various stations along the IB&O.

Stations of the IB&O Railway

Mile 0.0 The starting point of the IB&O was just north of Kinmount. This station known as Myles Junction, Kinmount Junction and best known for the name given to it in 1919 - **Howland Junction**. Originally a two-storey station house with a waiting room and freight room on the main level and living quarters upstairs. It was destroyed by fire in 1817 and was replaced with a small single-storey building. This station is best known for the man-powered turntable. A locomotive could be turned around simply with two able bodied men pushing. It was used by both the IB&O and the Haliburton line.

2.0 Conway was a small shelter flag stop between Howland Junction and Furnace Falls. A flag stop simply means it was unmanned. If you were wishing to ride the train you would need to flag the train down.

4.9 Furnace Falls station had a long platform with an open shed. A siding was built parallel to the main line to assist with loading freight cars.

9.3 Irondale was a low two-storey building. A waiting room, agent's office and freight room occupied the main level with living quarters on the upper floor for the section man and his family. In winter, ice blocks were cut from Salerno Lake, packed in sawdust, loaded onto freight cars and sold in the towns and cities. Ice boxes were in use at this time for refrigeration. The Irondale station burned in the early 1930's. Three rail cars replaced the burned station. Two were end to end along the tracks for waiting and freight rooms. Another was set behind and used as living quarters.

11.4 Maxwells Crossing was a flag stop on the north side of the Irondale River. It was simply a small waiting room. The rail line crossed the river before reaching Maxwells and crossed the river again before reaching Gooderham.

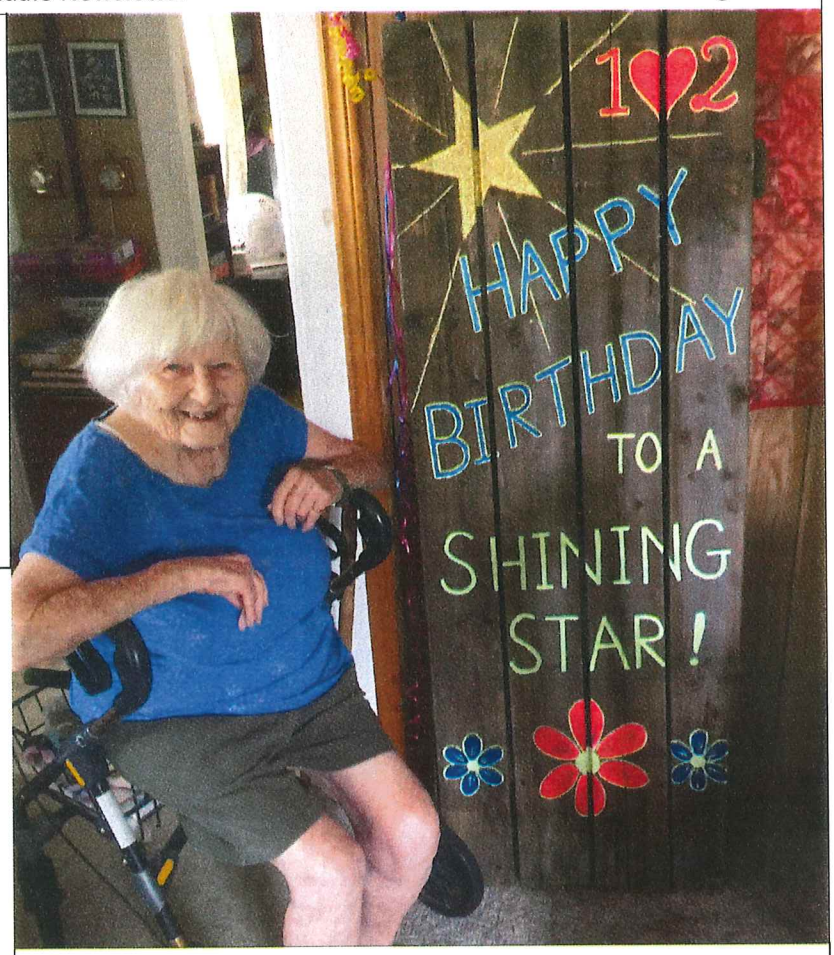
16.9 Originally known as Pine Lake, the name was changed to **Gooderham** in 1873. This station sported a long siding with switches at each end and a steam-operated stand pipe. Water was pumped from the nearby Irondale river and loaded into the locomotives tender. Apparently passengers could enjoy a light meal while the train was being filled.

24.7 Tory Hill was a small station with a waiting room and a siding for loading freight cars. There was a bush camp near Tory Hill, 1912 to 1945, to cut cordwood for the Standard Chemical Company that operated in Donald. The wood was then loaded on the freight cars and shipped to Donald.

Continued on page 7

Trivia Answers from August/September newsletter

1. Ontario Science Centre
2. 22
3. Michael Jordan
4. Carlos Delgado
5. Ed Belfour
6. True
7. The Liver
8. Ligaments
9. Josh allen
10. Two, Derek and T.J.
11. False
12. Dustin Johnson
13. South Pole
14. Arthur Ashe
15. Augusta Georgia
16. Canada's Earl Grey
17. Double Eagles
18. Fred Van Vleet
19. Chicago Blackhawks
20. Seven
21. Water zorbing
22. Bo bichette
23. Toronto Maple Leafs
24. Los Angeles Clippers
25. Cricket Ball



Madeleine Howarth celebrated her 102nd birthday on August 28.
Happy Belated Birthday from your Irondale Friends.

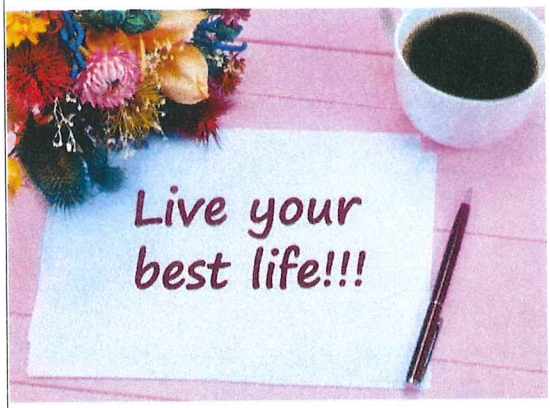
This article, written by Margaret Swanton in June 2008, honouring Bean Hancock, Gordon Kennedy, Pearl & Fred Simmons and Gordon Taylor

A Tribute to Our Honoured Irondale Seniors

Today we are gathered to pay tribute to our Irondale Seniors, it is appropriate because June is celebrated as Senior's Month in Ontario, and most of the other provinces. They are our friends, our neighbours, our relatives, and respected citizens of our community.

I submit the following sage advice and perspectives on life as written by some famous people.
Jonathan Swift said "No wise man ever wished to be younger."
May Lamberton Becker has said "We grow neither better nor worse as we get old, but more like ourselves."
"The future is something everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, no matter who or where we are." C. S. Lewis
"You cannot create experience, you must under go it." Albert Camus
"You don't feel old, you feel the same inside, I still think I'm thirty." "It takes a long time to become young" Pablo Picasso
"Over the Hill, and ready to Roll." Marg Swanton
Never regret growing old, not everyone has that privilege. Years may wrinkle the skin, but never the soul.
Mark Twain once said "Age is an issue of mind over matter, If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Our Irondale Seniors have had enough happiness to make them very nice people, enough trials to make them strong, enough sorrow to make them kind, and enough hope them keep them happy. In their lives they have taken the best of everything and made the most of everything that came their way, and today we are not counting years, we are counting memories that are written in our hearts with indelible ink.



I will conclude by reading The Heritage Prayer

Father God, We keep forgetting all of those who lived before us
We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in our churches before we were born.
We keep forgetting what our parents have done for us
We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything begins with us.
We drink from wells we did not find, we eat from lands we did not clear,
We enjoy freedoms which we have not earned,
We worship in churches, and live in homes we did not build.
We live and enjoy communities we did not establish.
This day, make us grateful for our heritage. Amen

Thank You Margaret for writing this article. Beautiful words. It has given many of us something the ponder.

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Thank You
Gerard Klompmaker
for keeping the furnace clean & running efficiently at the heritage building, known as the 'Irondale Church'

Irondale newsletter currently reaches 100 postal addresses and 449 email addresses; the numbers are always increasing.

THANK YOU TO KINGSLEY GREENHAM FOR KEEPING THE GRASS CUT AT 1019 ELM RD
Much appreciated.

Irondale Events advertise in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
The Times MINDEN ONTARIO
County Life

Dirty Dishes

Thank God for dirty dishes
They have a tale to tell
While other folks are hungry
We're eating very well.
With Home, Health and Happiness
I shouldn't want to fuss
By the stack of evidence
God has been very good to us!

CONGRATS ON FIFTY YEARS!!

Tom & Dorothy Lee celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends on the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend

Stations cont'd

27.5 Ward was a crossroads flag stop. It was located south of Esson (Otter) Lake. There was a siding that local farmers used to ship their cordwood.

30.2 Wilberforce station has a section man's house attached. There were three sidings and a spur line to the graphite mill on the east side of the dam on Irondale River. The graphite mill started in 1910, producing graphite for us in pencils and machinery lubrication.

33.5 Ironsides was a flag stop where the tracks crossed the Mumford Rd. This location was also known as Radium Springs, often the train would stop to allow passengers to collect water from the springs.

36.4 Mumford station is known now as Harcourt. It was a small station with a siding. The graphite mine and sawmill was about a 1/2 mile west. A serious sink hole was discovered during construction of the rail line, requiring a large amount of fill.

39.5 Highland Grove station was a two–storey building used in the same fashion as the Howland Junction and Irondale stations. This station was destroyed by fire, replaced and it too burned to the ground. There were cattle pens and a loading chute—making Highland Grove a cattle shipping point. Traveling by rail from Highland Grove provided some fantastic scenery. The track ran along the shore of Jordon, Diamond and Baptiste Lakes.

45.0 Baptiste had a station with two sidings. Early years there was an engine shed, turntable and repair shops for both locomotives and cars.

46.5 Hughes Siding William Hughes had timber rights on Elephant Lake and a sawmill on Baptiste Lake. He used a flat bottomed barge to move his sawn lumber to a point on Elephant Lake just east of Baptiste where there was a siding.

47.5 Birds Creek was to be the temporary terminus for the IB&O. A turntable allowed trains to be turned around to head back from where it came. Passengers and freight were transported to Bancroft by wagon and stage coach. I have also saw this station referred to as Mud Creek and Redmond Bay.

This is the farthest the rail line went under Charles Pusey's ownership.

52.0 York River, a junction with the Central Ontario Railway in 1910

53.7 Bancroft The first IB&O train to reach Bancroft was in July 1910. The IB&O was now under Central Ontario Railway control.

Research used for this article -

- Taylor Wilkins book "Haliburton by Rail and the I.B.& O." Haliburton 1992
- T.D. Regehr book "The Canadian Northern Railway" Toronto 1976
- Railway Bob www.railwaybob.com "Index to the Railways of Eastern Ontario"
- Charles Cooper article 2011

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

These are tentative dates - depends on state of Covid pandemic and rental of community centres. Please be sure to check the appropriate website and/or Facebook pages to get up to date information

2022	Unless otherwise noted - Tickets available online at www.IrondaleOntario.ca or call/text 705-457-8438
Sat. Feb 19	**Welcome Back Dinner** held at the Irondale Community Centre. Dinner served from 5pm to 7pm Menu still being planned. You certainly shouldn't go away hungry! *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sat. April 16	**Wilberforce Maplefest** Event All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast and lots of shopping with the local vendor tables. 9 am to 2 pm. Wilberforce Community Centre, in the heart of Wilberforce.
Sat. May 7	**Fish 'N Fowl Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm. Dinner at 6pm. Fish, turkey, potatoes, vegetables, salad & dessert. Loonie auction action after dessert. $20 pp *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sun. June 5	**First Church Service** - visiting Minister expected. 10 am. Come as you are. **Book Nook Opening** - 11 am to 1 pm - no charge so help yourself to refreshments, books, videos, puzzles ...
Sat. July 9	**Concert on the Lake** - Great music from the comfort of your own boat, canoe or paddleboard. Music starts at 6:30pm Tickets available in advance. Check *www.sdlca.ca* for more details.
Sat. July 23	**Wild Game Dinner** - Popular dinner, held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm, buffet at 6pm. All game served as bite size pieces, you can sample it all. Remember bring loonies for after dinner fun. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR THIS DINNER** *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sun. July 31 TBD	Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's Canoe Race, BBQ and Children's Games Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's AGM check www.sdlca.ca for up to date information.
Fri. Aug 19 Sat. Aug 20	**Irondale Inspirations** - the artists that call Irondale home/cottage will be showcasing their work at the historical Irondale church. 10 am to 4pm. Please drop by, enjoy their talents. You may just catch one or more of them creating on site.
Sat. Sept 24	**Family Harvest Festival** - 11 to 4pm - Vendors, BBQ, displays, tours—all on the property of Irondale's historical church building. NO ADMISSION CHARGED. Hike Haliburton tour starts & ends here as well. *B.L.C.D. event*
Sat Nov 12	**Themed Dinner** held at the Irondale Community Centre. Dinner served from 5 pm til 7pm as long as supplies last. $20 pp Menu still being planned. *You certainly shouldn't go away hungry!* *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*

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Irondale Events are advertised in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands